



OF SPECIAL
INTEREST:

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Minister's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and good!

As we count down to Christmas day, let us contemplate the arrival of the light of the world.

In the beginning, a whisper of creation echoed through the void and God said "Let there be light". As the Israelites wandered through the desert at night, a radiant fire guided them. In the Psalms, we are reminded that the Lord is our light and we have nothing to fear. In the letters from St. Paul, we are reminded to cast off darkness and put on the armor of light. Revelation speaks of a celestial city that has no need for moon or sun. Instead, it is lit by an eternal lamp, the Lamb of God, powered by sacrificial love.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we are called toward the stillness of the silent night of Bethlehem. We are reminded of the light from a star announcing the beginning. The word became flesh and dwelt among us.

It is a time where we realize that we have been carrying the light inside us all along. Now, we celebrate but also pause in wonderment as if gazing at the sky during that night in Bethlehem. The divine love that radiates within us; through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to let it shine.

Josh



Organization

Tau Fraternity
c/o St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St.
Herndon, VA 20170

Meetings every 1st Sunday
of the month at:
St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St., Room 205

PACE
& E
BENE

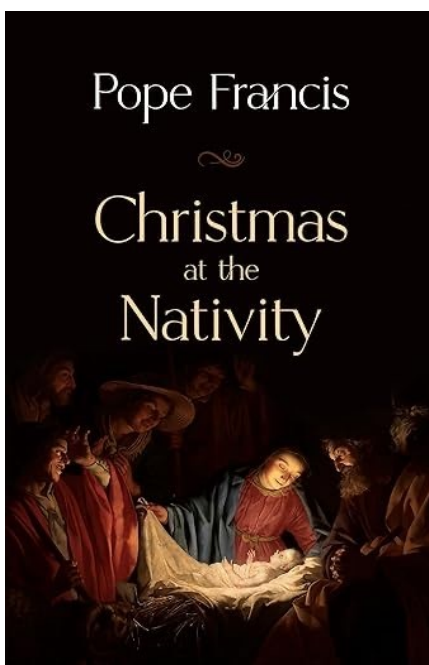
The Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order was canonically established on June 21, 1992. The Fraternity is affiliated with the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tau Fraternity is in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Tau Fraternity Council currently includes the following officers:

- Minister—Josh Goldberg, OFS
- Vice Minister—Liz Wellborn, OFS
- Formation Director—Bill Richey, OFS
- Secretary—Barbara Slivers, OFS
- Treasurer—Joe Boyle, OFS
- Councilor—Kimberley Heatherington, OFS



New book from Pope Francis: *Christmas at the Nativity*



Written with his beloved down-to-earth style, Pope Francis tells the story of Christmas through the lens of the different characters of the Nativity scene. This book, in English for the first time, is destined to be a perennial Christmas classic.

"The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him." — Pope Francis

On the 800th anniversary of St. Francis's original nativity, Pope Francis gives to the world this stirring call to come to the manger and encounter Christ anew!

ISBN 978-1-56548-576-1 (paperback) - \$17.95
New City Press



TAU GATHERING

Christmas

2 DECEMBER | PARISH HALL "A"

1:00pm - Welcome Guests, Opening Prayer & Liturgy of the Hours

1:30pm - Ongoing Formation

2:00pm - Grace before Meals | Eating & Social Time

2:30pm - Trivia Game

3:00pm - Music & Songs | Voting for "Best Christmas Garb" | Raffle of Centerpieces & Door Prizes

4:30pm - Closing Prayers





FRANCISCAN SISTERS, T.O.R.
of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother

ABOUT

VOCATIONS

NEWS & MEDIA

EVENTS

DONATE

PRAYER REQUESTS



ADVENT RETREAT 2023

The Fullness of Time

*We would love to have you join us for our
upcoming Advent Retreat!*

OUR DATE IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9,
2023

This year's retreat theme is *The Fullness of time*. The retreat will begin with registration at 8:00 am EST and will end at about noon. The day will include Mass with Fr. Tom Sparacino of the Pittsburgh Diocese, a talk by a sister, and a Holy Hour. You will also have the option to be part of a sister-led share group, where you can meet after the retreat to reflect on the day's graces, or to receive prayer ministry from the sisters. **To ensure a spot in the share group, please pre-register by Wed. Dec. 6.** Day-of sign ups for the groups are possible but not ensured.

FREE LIVESTREAMED RETREAT AT 8:00 AM — MORE INFO & REGISTER @ THIS LINK:

www.franciscansisterstor.org/events/advent-retreat-2023

RECAP OF NOVEMBER 5 GATHERING

PRESENTATION: ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

The Annual Remembrance Ceremony — including praying of the Franciscan Crown Rosary, led by Fr. Tom — took place to celebrate the lives of our deceased brothers and sisters:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Deacon James Sheehan, OFS | December 7, 1997 |
| Anna Seymour, OFS | June 10, 1998 |
| Bill Obenauer, OFS | October 15, 1998 |
| Karen Sawtell, OFS | December 24, 1998 |
| Marjorie O'Connor, OFS | March 16, 2005 |
| Tony Del Popolo, OFS | May 2, 2005 |
| Marie Fitzgerald, OFS | November 28, 2006 |
| Isabel Bartlett, OFS | June 14, 2008 |
| Diane Caputo, OFS | January 2010 |
| Martha Ureke, OFS | August 16, 2010 |
| Helen Martin, OFS | February 18, 2012 |
| Edna Henke, OFS | March 3, 2012 |
| Mary McCarthy, OFS | May 12, 2016 |
| Frank Mullin, OFS | July 3, 2018 |
| Ron Kauffman, OFS | April 12, 2019 |
| Ed Geiger, OFS | October 17, 2019 |
| Catherine Williams, OFS | August 21, 2020 |
| Kay Flynn, OFS | March 11, 2021 |
| Joe Messina, OFS | September 22, 2021 |
| Bill Brewster, OFS | July 15, 2022 |
| Irene Naveau, OFS | April 24, 2023 |
| Gail Dowling, OFS | November 00, 2023 |
| Edith Thornasoni, OFS | Unknown |



Special thanks to Sally White, OFS, Walter Gawlak, OFS, and Joe Boyle, OFS, for all their work on the ceremony.

Walter reminded us to have a Last Will & Testament in place for our families. Fr. Torn explained Mass of Christian Burial guide books are available through the St. Joseph parish office.

ONGOING FORMATION

Bill Richey, OFS, led a group discussion where brothers and sisters individually identified people who they've seen as saints in their lives.

Bill reminded us to be alert in the upcoming holiday weeks to our conversations during gatherings with family and friends. He will email a related article to the fraternity.

APOSTOLATES

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE

Thanks to our Brothers and Sisters who support the apostolate at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House.

The last food delivery of 2023 will be on Saturday, December 9. The menu for December is ham, corn pudding, pasta dishes, and cookies.

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS or Joe Boyle, OFS.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Joe Boyle, OFS, volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter at St. Timothy Catholic Church. Food donations may be dropped off prior to the Tau Gathering in the stairwell on the right at St. Joseph School. You can also provide a monetary donation to Joe, who is Tau Treasurer. Thank you!

For more information, see

<https://sttimothyparish.org/outreach-and-ministries/st-vincent-de-paul/>

POOR CLARES OF NEW JERSEY

Tau Fraternity supports the Monastery of St. Clare in Chesterfield, NJ, with a biannual monetary donation. The monastery is home to Sister Karen Stapleton, OSC, who began her Franciscan journey with Tau Fraternity. The main work of the Poor Clares of NJ is to provide Altar Bread to parishes in the diocese of Trenton.

For more information, or to submit a prayer intention to the Poor Clares, see [The Poor Clares of New Jersey — Joyfully Embracing the Gospel Way of Life .\(poorclaresnewjersey.com\)](http://www.poorclaresnewjersey.com)

Watch their YouTube video [A Quiet Joy: New Jersey's Monastery of Saint Clare](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

FRANCISCAN MISSION SERVICE

Tau Fraternity provides a biannual monetary donation to Franciscan Mission Service. The organization prepares and supports lay Catholics for mission service opportunities around the globe.

For more information, see [Home | Franciscan Mission](#)

PRAYER SHAWL APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity provides handmade prayer shawls to individuals in the Diocese of Arlington. Currently, shawls are being provided to pregnant women participating in the Gabriel Project. For more information, please contact Sharon Goldberg, OFS.

ECUMENICAL APOSTOLATE

Tau Fraternity partners with the First Baptist Church of Herndon to provide English lessons to students. Tau members volunteer time and talent to teach at Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sally White, OFS.

Many thanks!



James 2:17

PLAY BALL! PAM'S LITTLE LEAGUE APOSTOLATE

Pamela Brooks' apostolate is working with kids and families in Little League. She serves as the Umpire in Chief for Virginia District 16, the Executive Vice President of the Virginia State Tournament Umpires Association, the current chairman of the Southeast Region Umpire Alumni Association Steering Committee, and in 2022 and 2023 served as the Umpire in Chief for the Little League Softball World Series.

In calendar year 2023, Pam umpired 50 Little League games at various levels (both baseball and softball). Pam is a 100% volunteer umpire, and does not get paid for any of her Little League activities. She pays for her own training, her own gear and uniforms, and her own transportation costs.



One thing Pam loves about umpiring for Little League is that she demonstrates to the players that females are capable of being successful in male-dominated roles (important for both the young men and young ladies to see), and she demonstrates that we need to give back to our communities and volunteer.

Pam has been blessed to make many friends from around the world, including Chris Webb. Chris is 75 years old and umpired two different Little League World Series (Majors Girls and Junior Baseball). She was a trailblazer for women umpires. Chris continues to umpire and also volunteers at many levels. She is a District Administrator in Florida and the official scorekeeper for the Little

League Softball World Series. Chris asked Pam to umpire with her. In order to make that happen, on November 9, Pam drove 13-1/2 hours to Zephyrhills, Florida. Pam umpired two games (majors softball and majors baseball) with Chris.

As a side note, Pam never played softball or baseball. She came to the game as an adult when her children played in Little League and volunteers were needed to help coach and help umpire — proof that if one puts his/her mind to it, one can learn to do anything they are interested in. Pam started umpiring for Little League in 2008.

Pam introduced Chris to our Father Alberto Bueno (former Spiritual Advisor for Tau Fraternity) a while back. While in Florida, Pam and Chris had lunch with Father Alberto.



TAU COMMITTEES

If you are interested in participating actively in a Tau Committee, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Cultural Diversity Committee — Sally White, OFS

Hospitality Committee — Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS

Interfaith/Ecumenical Committee — Kimberley Heatherington, OFS

Infirmarian Committee — Sharon Goldberg, OFS

Recruitment Committee — Vacant

Technology Committee — John Ata, OFS



INTERFAITH & ECUMENICAL

2023-2024 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

KEY

Baha'i **Buddhist**
Christian **Hindu**
Jain **Jewish**
Muslim
Federal Holidays
Sikh **Zoroastrian**

*Indicates holidays start at
sundown the day before

Visit www.ifcmw.org for
more information about
the faith communities
represented on this
calendar.

| AUG 2023 | SEP 2023 | OCT 2023 | NOV 2023 |
|--|---|--|---|
| Aug 15th: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Sep 1: Scriptures installed at Darbar Sahib Sep 12-19: Paryushan Parva Sep 15-17: Rosh Hashanah* Sep 18: Ganesh Chaturi Sep 19: Samvatsari Sep 19-28: Das Lakshan Parva Sep 25: Yom Kippur* Sep 27: Mawlid an-Nabi* Sep 30-Oct 6: Sukkot* | Oct 2: Mehregan Oct 7: Shemini Atzeret* Oct 8: Simchat Torah* Oct 9: Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day Oct 15-23: Navatri Oct 16: Birth of the Báb* Oct 17: Birth of Bahá'u'lláh* Oct 23: Dussehra | Nov 3: Gurgaddi Diwas Nov 11: Veteran's Day Nov 12: Diwali Nov 12: Bandi Chhor Divas Nov 13: Mahavir Nirvana Nov 14: Jain New Year Nov 23: Thanksgiving Nov 24: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Nov 27: Birth-anniversary of Guru Nanak |
| DEC 2023 | JAN 2024 | FEB 2024 | MARCH 2024 |
| Dec 8-15: Hanukkah* Dec 8: Bodhi Day Dec 21: Chelleh Dec 25: Christmas Dec 26: Zarathushtra's Commemoration | Jan 1: New Year's Day Jan 6: Epiphany Jan 7: Orthodox Christmas Day Jan 14: Orthodox New Year Jan 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan 17: Birth-anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Jan 25: Tu Bishvat* Jan 30: Sadeh | Feb 14: Ash Wednesday Feb 19: President's Day | Mar 11: Ramadan begins* Mar 14: Sikh Environment Day Mar 19, 11:06 PM EST: Nowruz (New Year) Mar 20: Naw-ruz* Mar 24: Purim* Mar 25: Holi Mar 25: Zarathushtra's Birthday Mar 26: Adinath Swami Jayanti Mar 29: Good Friday Mar 31: Easter |
| APRIL 2024 | MAY 2024 | JUNE 2024 | JULY 2024 |
| April 4: Mahavir Swami Jayanti Apr 7: Farvardingan Apr 10: Eid-al-Fitr* Apr 13: Vaisakhi Apr 21: First day of Ridvan* Apr 23-30: Passover* Apr 29: Ninth day of Ridvan | May 2: Twelfth Day of Ridvan May 5: Orthodox Easter May 19: Pentecost May 23: Vesak May 23: Declaration of the Bab* May 27: Memorial Day May 28: Ascension of the Baha'u'lláh* | June 12-13: Shavuot* June 15: Hajj* June 16: Day of Arafat* June 17: Eid-al-Adha* June 19: Juneteenth June 30: Tirgan | July 4: Independence Day July 7: Muharram* July 9: Martyrdom of the Bab July 16-17: Ashura* |

PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For the physical and spiritual healing of Sylvia Capurso; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her husband Gary; Richard and Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; and Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan.

For peace in the Middle East.

For the patients and Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. For the people affected by Coronavirus and their caregivers. For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the country of Myanmar and its citizens. For the victims of natural disasters. For all those impacted by the fires in Maui. For refugees and migrant workers. For Russians opposing the war in Ukraine. For Bishop Rolando Alvarez imprisoned in Nicaragua.

For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please send prayer requests to Josh Goldberg, OFS.

*Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving, present
your request to God.*

Philippians 4:6-7



REFLECTIONS: THE INCARNATION

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER



REFLECTIONS: THE INCARNATION

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

THE INCARNATION: CHRISTMAS AT GRECCIO, 1223-2023

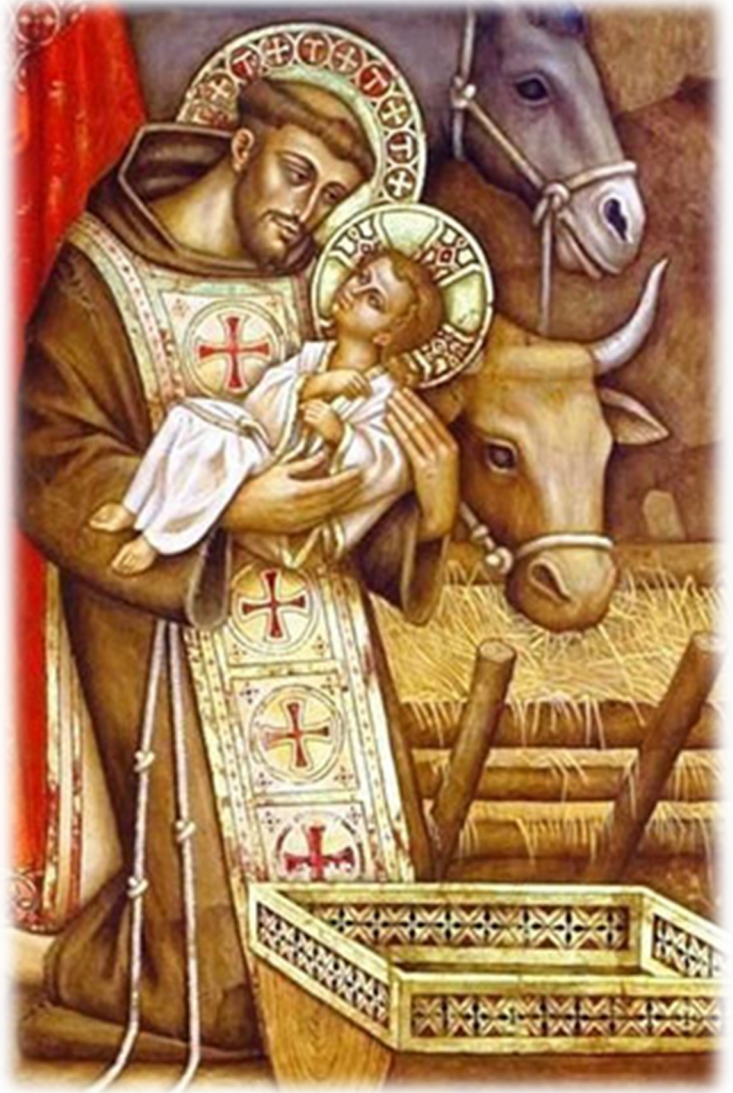
Christians consider Christmas a very important holiday. We look forward to the joyfulness, traditional carols, lights and “magic” of the season. All too often, however, the secular aspects of the holiday crowd out the spiritual.

Eight centuries ago, St. Francis highlighted the spiritual significance of Jesus coming into our world: the wonder and mystery of the Incarnation, and its message for how we should live our lives.

For Francis, the coming of Christ into the world — His incarnation as a humble baby — was deeply profound. To enshrine the importance of Christ’s coming, Francis organized a special re-creation of the original manger scene in the small Italian town of Greccio in 1223.

As one of Francis’ early followers Thomas of Celano recalled (Book I: *Life of St. Francis of Assisi* (1229)):

Finally, the day of joy has drawn near, the time of exultation has come. From many different places the brethren have been called. As they could, the men and women of that land with exultant hearts prepare candles and torches to light up that night whose shining star has enlightened every day and year. Finally, the holy man of God comes and, finding all things prepared, the hay is carried in, the ox and the ass are led to the spot. There simplicity is given a place of honor, poverty is exalted, humility is commended, and out of Greccio is made a new Bethlehem. The people arrive, ecstatic at this new mystery of new joy. The forest amplifies the cries of the animals. The night is lit up like day, delighting both man and beast.



(continued — next page)

REFLECTIONS: THE INCARNATION

POETRY, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

Francis understood that Christ is the supreme offering by God of His love for the world. Christ's humility, in particular, struck Francis. Jesus came into our world in order to carry us into His world. Furthermore, Jesus still comes to people where they are. He is available to all.

Grasping this truth, Francis sought to follow Jesus in being present to all he met: whatever their station in life, their need or even their receptiveness to God's love. Francis' incarnational response was to follow God in his everyday life; he did not have any master plan. He allowed God to lead him, and he was present to all he encountered. Francis helped the lepers and the lepers helped him. Francis simply fell in love with Jesus. He encountered people with God's own love.

What lessons can we Secular Franciscans take from Francis' focus on the Incarnation? Our first task is to love our broken world before we change it: our country, church, ourself. Then, we need to allow others to enter our vulnerable places. Our love for others should be modeled on that of Christ — born into our world to show us how to live — and crucified for us as a final demonstration of God's love. The Incarnate God came on earth to be poor among the poor.

The Incarnation expresses the fullest communion of God-with-us. It is not sin, but Christ, who is the center of our attention. If the Incarnation took place as an event in history, not because of human sinfulness nor out of a need for divine retribution but as the manifestation of divine desire to be with us, then what might salvation really mean? Perhaps salvation involves neither justification nor retribution, but is the simple act of presence. Let us remember this during our encounters with others this Advent and Christmas Season.

Gil Donahue, OFS
November 7, 2023



CALENDAR: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

December is the Month of the Incarnation*

- Dec. 2 Tau Christmas Gathering
- Dec. 3 Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle
Feast of St. Francis Xavier
Sylvia Capurso's and Richard Clarke's Professions
- Dec. 5 First Sunday of Advent
Bill Bouffard's, Jim Haynes', and Liz Welborn's Professions
- Dec. 6 Feast of St. Nicholas
- Dec. 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Frank Bowen's Profession
- Dec. 9 Missionaries of Charity Hospice Food Drop Off
- Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 12 Discovery of the Tomb of St. Francis
Feast of Our Lady of Guadeloupe
- Dec. 13 Memorial of St. Lucy
- Dec. 15 Mary, Queen of the Seraphic Order
- Dec. 17 Third Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 25 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Holy Day of Obligation
- Dec. 26 Feast of St. Stephen
- Dec. 27 Feast of St. John the Apostle
- Dec. 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents
- Dec. 31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

*See the Franciscan Calendar for more dates:
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/traditional-franciscan-calendar.html>

December 2023

| Su | Mo | Tue | We | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

January 2024

| Su | Mo | Tue | We | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

On December 24, the 1:00 PM Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church is for deceased Tau Fraternity brothers and sisters



Gain a Plenary Indulgence by praying before a Nativity Scene between December 8 and February 2!



See the details here:
<https://aleteia.org/2023/11/28/st-francis-nativity-scenes-and-plenary-indulgences-check-this-out/>

Festival of Praise

St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree Street
Herndon, Virginia

Sept. 17

Oct. 15

Nov. 19

Dec. 10

7:00pm

to

9:00pm

Festival of Praise is an opportunity to gather as a parish community simply to give glory to God. This prayer experience is accompanied by Eucharistic adoration and worship music meant to draw us out of ourselves to worship God for who He is.



NEXT TAU GATHERING

DECEMBER 2, 2023

SCHEDULE

- 1:00 pm Welcome / Opening Prayer / LOH
1:30 pm Ongoing Formation
2:00 pm Grace / Eating & Social Time
2:30 pm Trivia Game
3:00 pm Music & Songs
Voting for "Best Christmas Garb"
Raffle of Centerpieces & Door Prizes
4:30 pm Closing Prayers

St. Joseph Church
Parish Hall "A"

INITIAL FORMATION - CANDIDATES:

Chapter 33 in *Franciscan Journey*
Chapter 12 in *Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION

Please read these before Christmas dinner, just in case a Franciscan peacemaker is needed.

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/2020/11/23/franciscan-mindful-dialogues/>

<https://grandinmedia.ca/st-francis-meeting-with-famed-sultan-800-years-ago-set-tone-for-catholic-muslim-relations/>

During Advent, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Angelus:

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared
unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy
Spirit.
---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
R. Be it done unto me according to
your Word.
---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us.
---- Pray The HAIL MARY ----

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

--- LET US PRAY ---

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pray The HOLY ROSARY Daily / facebook.com

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

34th Week in Ordinary Time

Readers: **PLEASE VOLUNTEER - TBD****

MIDDAY PRAYER:

See [here](#) or

<https://divineoffice.org/ord-w02-sat-dp2-current/?date=20231202>

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, EVENING PRAYER I:

Hymn - #63 "O Come, O Come, Emanuel"
pg. 1577

Psalms - Sunday Evening Prayer I:
pg. 701

Everything else - First Sunday of Advent
Evening Prayer I: pg. 41

** Contact Joe Boyle, OFS, to volunteer for:

- ◆ Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 1
- ◆ Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 2
- ◆ Liturgy of the Hours Psalm 3
- ◆ Scripture Reading and Responsory.